

A Month Later from Japan—The Squadron before Jedo.

UNITED STATES STEAMER POWHATAN,
Off Cape King, (Island of Nippon.)
May 14, 1854.

I am obliged, from want of time, to give you but a brief report of our doings for the month. After the diplomatic negotiations in Yoko-hama were concluded, the survey of the bay was vigorously carried on, and in spite of rough and stormy weather, made good progress. On the 6th of April the Saratoga fired her salute of departure, and sailed amid hearty cheers from the remaining vessels of the squadron.

Before the fleet went down to Simoda, (one of the ports designated in the treaty as open to American ships,) the commodore desired to have a view of Jedo, which desire met with great opposition on the part of the Japanese, who were struck with horror at the prospect of our fire-wheel ships anchoring under the walls of the imperial palace. As the commodore remained firm in his purpose, some of them declared that the dropping of the anchor under the walls of the former would be the signal for their own disembowelment.

We were all not a little excited when, on the morning of the 8th of April, the ships got under way. Yenske, the chief interpreter, with some other Japanese, were on board the flag ship. They looked haggard and alarmed as we steamed up the bay. Yenske, especially, was petrified with alarm, and frequently said, "Do you really intend to remain in Yedo?" "Oh, no; Commodore Perry has a good heart; he certainly will not do so." We stood across the bay, and then, at a distance of three miles from shore, made directly up towards the imperial city. About ten o'clock we had the light-house of Kowasacki abeam, on the left hand, while before us, in a long semi-circular line, stretched the white houses of Yedo. At the light-house commenced the suburb of Sinegawa; further toward the city were many large junks at anchor; behind them a great many smaller craft, while crowds of fishing boats and junks of all sizes covered the bay. A mound, or eminence, towered above the houses of the city, near its center, and from the turrets and shining white fronts of buildings covering it, we judged this to be the imperial palace.

By this time the sailing vessels were far astern, and only the Powhatan and Mississippi lay before the town. Commodore Perry halted for about half an hour, and then returned to the old American anchorage, to the infinite relief of the Japanese officers, who speedily recovered their good spirits. I cannot deny that we felt somewhat disappointed, although we felt convinced the commodore had pursued the wisest course. At the time, no important result could have been obtained by anchoring at Yedo; it was a matter of curiosity, not worth gratifying at the price of several lives, for I really think the Japanese officers fools enough to kill themselves, and would have created ill-feeling towards us. So the Commodore has kept his word—gone in sight of Yedo, and without driving the Japanese to any desperate measures. I cannot but express my admiration of the masterly manner in which Commodore Perry has managed this difficult business from the beginning. He has succeeded in combining dignity and firmness so happily with kindness and cordiality, that he has made our squadron and our country respected, without humiliating the national pride of the Japanese.

On the 16th of April we hove anchor, and stood down the bay towards Simoda, our port in Nippon. Simoda is situated near Cape Fogu, sixty miles west from Point Sagami, on the entrance of the bay of Yedo, and not far from the point where we first made land in coming to Yedo last year. It is a good, commodious harbor, well sheltered by hills several hundred feet high. It has only a moderately large entrance toward the south, with a rock within the entrance, which affords a still more protected anchorage. The little town of Simoda, of about one thousand houses, is situated at the northwestern end of the harbor, on the banks of a small stream which flows down through a fertile valley, often not more than half a mile wide, and again widening to one and a

half miles. Several of the little brooks offer good watering places for the ships. The larger Japanese junks mostly anchor at Kowasacki, a village of about three hundred houses, on the northeastern end, and opposite Simoda. There are eight temples—some of which are very large—in the town, and little chapels (*mia*) on almost every eminence, and by the roadsides. In the location of their buildings for religious purposes the Japanese show a fine appreciation of the picturesque, and, in general, they seem to be great lovers of nature. On eminences whence fine views are to be seen, spaces under the trees are cleared, and here the fellows sit, smoke, or pic-nic for hours.

The country is exceedingly picturesque, and resembles very much the lower ranges of the Alps. Along the little river Simoda are many villages, and numbers of rice mills stamp and grind along its banks. About six miles from the bay this river divides into several branches. Following either of them, you pass through numerous gorges and glens, and finally reach the barren tops of mountains—some three thousand feet high. Their summits and the narrow table lands, are covered with bushy grass, among which a certain berry, upon which pheasants and partridges feed, grows plentifully. This is a fine ground for sportsmen, who might soon bag a dozen of those plump, golden-green birds.

In one of the larger temples, a place has been arranged for the daguerreotype, and Mr. Brown is actively at work. He has obtained many very fine daguerreotypes of the Japanese, and will have a fine collection to show when he reaches home. Mr. Heine continues his sketching, drawing, painting, gunning, skinning, pressing and preserving plants. Lieutenants Murray, Bent, Whiting, Bamboo, Nicholson, etc., etc., have been busily engaged in the survey, and deserve no small credit for their exertions and the important results they have obtained. Mr. Bent is now flag lieutenant. The Commodore expects the imperial commissioner in Simoda for a final settlement of coinage, weights, postal regulations, etc., etc.; to which end our coins, measures and weights have been sent to Yedo. This will take place when we return from Chakodade, which port will probably be a great resort for our whalers to recruit and obtain supplies, as Simoda will undoubtedly be our coal depot, and the station of the future Californian-Chinese line.

Yesterday at day-light the Mississippi and Powhatan got under way for Chakodade, for which place the Macedonia, Vandalia and Southampton sailed eight days ago. About noon we were within three miles of the island of Ohosima, and had a fine opportunity of observing the traces of volcanic action which it presents. The whole island is one immense volcano, the top of which has fallen in and formed a great basin, which incessantly belches forth white smoke and ashes. The edges of the crater are black, as if charred by fire, and on the southwestern side of the island a stream of lava reaches from the summit to the sea. Some large crevices continue still smoking, and others are filled with ashes. A bluff near the sea, about two hundred feet high, appears to be of recent formation; for the bushes and trees along the edges of the lava, have a yellow, burnt appearance. The slopes of the mountains are covered with luxuriant vegetation, and there are two towns—one on a narrow table land, and the other on the top of a steep cliff, near a suspicious looking crater. There is said to be a third village on the northwestern side of the island.

We are now off Cape King (so named by Vancouver after his first lieutenant) and Cape Blanco. We are lying to, taking long lines of soundings with the deep-sea lead, which gives a most satisfactory result. I will write again by the first opportunity—from Chakodade, if possible.

George Kremer died at his residence in Union county, Pa., on the 10th inst., in the 79th year of his age. He is remembered as the man who published a note charging a bargain and sale between John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay, in 1824. The Tribune says, he was an honest but ignorant man, of narrow understanding and vehement prejudices.

THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.—The N. Y. Tribune has a letter from Canada, which says the Provinces are in a "blaze of glory" at the confirmation of the Reciprocity Treaty by the U. S. Senate. "Enthusiasm prevails in every farmer's domicile, and every land owner's pocket begins to swell by the enormity of his gains by this treaty." The writer adds—

"The whole globe contains but 37,000,000 square miles. British America, to which this Reciprocity applies, has 4,000,000 square miles, or one-ninth of the whole! All Europe contains but 3,708,000 square miles, or 292,000 miles less than British America. The United States include 3,330,572 square miles, or 769,125 less than British America." This estimate includes the Canadas, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, the Islands and Newfoundland. The territory is not all fully politically organized, but under the influence of the treaty, soon will be. The population is put down at 2,517,264. The summing up is as follows:

"Now, be it known to you and other friends, that the annexation to the States, for the present, is blighted. You have already annexed us, so far as pocket influence is concerned, by the late treaty, in receiving every kind of agricultural products *free of duty*. You have given us a free market to your whole Union. You have conferred a greater boon on Canada than was ever before known in her history. You have advanced Canadian lands to the price of those of Western New York. You have conferred a bounty on us to the immense loss of the farmers of the Western States. We can ask no more at present. All are contented with the prospects of the future."

THE SPIRIT OF THE SLAVE-DRIVERS.—A mass meeting of squatters of Kansas territory was held near Fort Leavenworth on the 1st of September, 1854. There being a desire on the part of some persons to ascertain how many Free-Soilers were present, the sense of the meeting was taken as to whether Kansas should be slave or free territory. The meeting, it is stated, was nearly unanimous in favor of slavery, only four voting in the negative. The following, among other resolutions, was adopted:

Resolved, That Kansas Territory (and as a consequence, the State of Kansas) of right should be and therefore SHALL BE slave territory.—[N. Y. Tribune.]

So much for the repeal of the Missouri Compromise by Olds & Co. Grant that these men may be outvoted; and that, by vigorous and united effort, Kansas may be made a free State; yet we run all this risk, and suffer all this turmoil and confusion, merely for the sake of giving slavery a chance to go in, where, by a law imposed by the South, it had been excluded.

Is it not perfectly evident that there is to be a desperate struggle there, between Freedom and Slavery? The earliest settlers, and those on the choicest selections are friends of slavery. They are backed up by slaveholders and the friends of slavery in the State of Missouri, which lies by the side of them. Their influence will be strong, and in certain sections of the territory, omnipotent. If they prevail, slavery will be established. If they fail, there is to be a long series of years of jealousies and bitter feeling, between the friends of Slavery and Freedom. This is inevitable. Why was all this done? Why try to introduce slavery; or, if that should fail, why create this hostile, unfriendly feeling? There is but one answer. It was done at the command of the slave power, that they might multiply States to vote down freedom; and it follows, that every Northern man who voted for the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was a double traitor—a traitor to republican liberty, and a traitor to his political household.

GOLD IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.—A gentleman writing from Boffo Plains, Washington territory, says: "There is some gold excitement in this part of the country. There are about seventy-five men now engaged in digging at the foot of the Cascades, on the western slope; they report making from five to ten dollars per day." No statement is made in regard to the particular locality, but it is probably on the Cathlamet river.

A MARVELLOUS RESCUE.—On Wednesday afternoon a little girl named Semira Prentice, six years old, who lives with Robert Getty, on Edgar's farm, east of the Asylum, fell into a well sixty feet deep. She was probably playing inside the curb and slipped off. The bucket was up at the time, leaving the passage unobstructed from the mouth of the well to the top of the water in it. The water in it was six feet deep, and the distance to it, as measured yesterday, was fifty-four feet. This distance the little girl fell, passing through the water to the bottom; the latter fact being proved by the great quantity of sand in her hair when she was drawn up, and by her own expressions in regard to her descent. When she rose to the surface of the water she sustained herself by clinging to the walls, immediately crying, "Pull me up," so loud as to be heard by Mrs. Getty, the only person at home. The lady, upon running to the well, and discovering the child's position, lowered the bucket and told the little creature to get in; but no persuasion could induce her to do as directed. Reaching as high up on the rope as she could, she took hold of it, and the lady began to draw her up. When about half the distance, but not half the danger had been passed, the child said she couldn't hold—she must fall; but the assurance from above that it would be certain death to let go, nerved her for a last effort, and tightening her childish grasp with the strength of despair, up she came to the top, her head sinking down as if life had left her. In an hour afterwards she was "as lively as a cricket"—unhurt even to the extent of a scratch on her person!—[Dayton Gaz.]

RECIPE FOR MAKING GRAPE WINE.—When the grapes are fully ripe, and have been removed from the vineyard to the place assigned for making the wine, they should be assorted, and all the green and decayed ones be removed. Then put them into a barrel, about a bushel at a time, stems and grapes, and pound them thoroughly till all the grapes are mashed. Continue the process till all are finished that you wish to make up at that time. The next process is to press out the juice or must. Then to every gallon add two pounds of sugar, and stir it thoroughly till all the sugar is dissolved. It is then put into barrels for the purpose of fermentation, there to remain, with frequent filling up to supply the waste, till the pomace is all fermented off. A supply of the must should be on hand for that purpose. The barrels should not be bunged up until the fermenting process is about completed. This may easily be ascertained by placing your ear to the bung. If in April or May the wine should be found clear, it may be racked off, but if unsettled it should be left till fall. If the wine is found to be just what you want it at the time of racking, bottle as much as you choose; but if not, let it remain on the lees, and the article will increase in character and strength.

I would remark that all grapes raised in this section of the country, do not contain enough sugar or saccharine matter to make good wine without the addition of sugar.—[H. N. L.—Rural New Yorker.]

Iowa.—There seems to be mischief covered up in the election returns of the 1st Congressional District in Iowa. It appears, as stated in the Iowa City Republican, that three counties were rejected in the 1st district, by which the election of Clark was defeated. This looks like a fraud, and Clark, it is supposed, will contest the election of Hall.

The Republican also says, that it has information from one of the Judges who canvassed the votes in the Senatorial district composed of Polk and other counties, that the certificate of election was given to the Democratic candidate, although Jourdan, his opponent, received some fifty more votes than he. This fraud gives the Slave Democracy one majority in the Senate. Iowa is making herself famous for frauds in her elections. This return, it is said, will also be contested.

The clock business in Connecticut stands as follows: 23 clock factories, 1,279 hands employed, \$1,000,000 capital invested, and resulted 90,000 clocks annually. One-fourth of the clocks are sold in England.